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**JOSEPH BARKER NAMED REGIONAL DIRECTOR
OF NLRB'S CHICAGO, IL REGIONAL OFFICE**

National Labor Relations Board Chairman Robert J. Battista and General Counsel Ronald Meisburg today announced the appointment of Joseph A. Barker as Regional Director of the National Labor Relations Board's Regional Office in Chicago, IL (Region 13). Mr. Barker succeeds Director Roberto G. Chavarry who retired in May 2006. Mr. Barker had been serving since May 2003 as Regional Attorney of the Board's Detroit, MI Regional Office (Region 7).

The NLRB administers and enforces the National Labor Relations Act. It conducts secret-ballot elections to determine whether employees desire union representation, and it investigates and remedies unfair labor practices. As Regional Director in Chicago, Mr. Barker will supervise the processing of unfair labor practice and representation cases filed under the Act in the Illinois counties of Cook, Du Page, Kane, Lake and Will, and Lake County in Indiana.

In announcing the appointment, NLRB Chairman Battista and General Counsel Meisburg stated:

Joe Barker is a superb manager who will bring a wealth of field experience to his position as Regional Director in Chicago. As Region 7's chief legal officer, he has provided insightful and balanced analysis to the Region's casehandling. His thoughtful understanding of the Agency and the law will serve him well as he continues the tradition of excellence in the Chicago Regional Office.

A native of Buchanan, MI, where he graduated from Buchanan High School in 1971, Mr. Barker joined the Agency in 1979 as a Field Attorney in the Detroit Regional Office after serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Justice James L. Ryan on the Michigan Supreme Court. In 1986, he was promoted to Supervisory Attorney and in 1993 to Deputy Regional Attorney in the Detroit office where he has served as Regional Attorney since 2003.

Mr. Barker received his B.A. degree from Michigan State University in 1975 and his J.D. degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1978. Mr. Barker has been an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law and a faculty member of the State Bar of Michigan's Institute for Continuing Legal Education. He previously served on the executive council for the Michigan State Bar's Labor and Employment Law Section, co-chaired Region 7's Practice and Procedure Committee, and served on the planning committee for the Bernard Gottfried Labor Law Symposium hosted by Region 7 at Wayne State University Law School.

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